



# Florida House of Representatives

*Representative Janet H. Adkins*

District 12

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July 25, 2011

Mr. Julius Genachowski, Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Mr. Genachowski:

I strongly believe in the power of education and the transforming influence that a good education can have on a person's life.

Technology is rapidly changing how students learn about the world. This generation of students has the ability to use high speed wireless broadband to access a wealth of information at the blink of an eye. The challenge of teaching in this environment is to make sure that students not only know how to obtain information, but also how to understand, analyze and make sense of information and how it fits into the world around them.

For students in rural school districts, wireless broadband is a lifeline that connects them to educational resources and opportunities that would otherwise be unavailable or unaffordable. Today, students in rural areas can utilize mobile broadband to read e-books, conduct research, prepare for standardized tests, and keep track of their grades. Mobile broadband networks also make it possible for students to participate in distance learning programs to take advanced placement or job training courses that are unavailable in small rural school districts. In our state, for example, students attending a high school with fewer than 350 total students are able to take Advanced Placement Courses online through the Florida Virtual School. This is a great opportunity for students to prepare for college and earn college credit – and it would not be possible without high-quality, high-speed Internet connectivity.

**Committees and Subcommittees:**

**EDUCATION COMMITTEE • K – 20 Competitiveness Subcommittee (Vice Chair)**

**PreK – 12 Appropriations Subcommittee • Rulemaking & Regulation Subcommittee**

**Transportation & Highway Safety Subcommittee • Select Committee on Government Reorganization**

**Joint Administrative Procedures Committee • Redistricting Committee**

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The AT&T/T-Mobile merger will provide rural communities with expanded access to high-speed wireless services. The merger will allow the companies to combine resources and make an additional \$8 billion investment to update and build out the existing telecommunications infrastructure. In the end, the merger will make AT&T's 4G LTE wireless network available to 97% of the American population. More than 55 million additional consumers will be able to access AT&T's high speed network. Many of these consumers live in rural communities where service is spotty, inconsistent or entirely unavailable.

Approving the AT&T/T-Mobile merger will expand access to technology to underserved rural areas and provide students in these areas with high-quality, high-speed connectivity that they need to compete for jobs in an increasingly competitive and inter-connected world. I strongly support the merger and urge the commissioners to approve the proposal without delay.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Janet L. Adkins".

Rep. Janet Adkins  
Florida House, District 12

CC:

Senator Bill Nelson

Senator Marco Rubio

Florida Congressional Delegation